

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended) A video telephone comprising:
2 image pickup means which ~~captures~~ captures ~~a photogenic~~ an image of a
3 subject and generates a pickup image signal;
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and
5 outputs a pickup image signal;
6 processing means for executing one or more image modification processing
7 techniques ~~image modification processing means~~ which subjects the pickup image
8 signal to an image modification processing to produce a modified image signal for
9 protecting a portrait right;
10 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal
11 from the pickup signal processing means and ~~a~~ the modified image signal ~~from the~~
12 ~~image modification processing means~~; and
13 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image
14 signal selection means.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein
2 the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from
3 the ~~processing means~~ ~~image modification processing means~~ at a time of starting
4 communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the
5 pickup signal processing means in response to an operational instruction from a
6 calling party.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein
2 the image signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from
3 the ~~processing means~~ ~~image modification processing means~~ at a time of starting
4 communication, and thereafter selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the
5 pickup signal processing means in response to confirmation of authentication of a
6 partner side of a calling party.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein
2 the ~~processing means~~ ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a defocusing

3 processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a defocused
4 state.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a deforming
3 processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of pixels in the
4 pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a resolution
3 reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image signal.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended) A video telephone according to claim 1, wherein
2 the processing means ~~image modification processing means~~ performs a tone
3 resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup image
4 signal.

1 Claim 8. (new) A video telephone comprising:

2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a
3 pickup signal;

4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and
5 outputs a pickup image signal;

6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal
7 to an image modification processing for protecting a portrait right, said image
8 modification including one or more of defocusing processing, deforming processing,
9 resolution reducing processing, tone resolution reducing processing, diffusing image
10 processing, transverse blurring processing, and contour extracting processing;

11 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal
12 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the
13 image modification processing means; and

14 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image
15 signal selection means.

1 Claim 9 (new) A video telephone according to claim 8, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 10 (new) A video telephone according to claim 8, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling
6 party.

11 Claim 11 (new) A video telephone comprising:

1 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a
2 pickup signal;

3 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and
4 outputs a pickup image signal;

5 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal
6 to defocusing processing for placing an image based on the pickup image signal in a
7 defocused state;

8 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal
9 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the
10 image modification processing means; and

11 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image
12 signal selection means.

1 Claim 12 (new) A video telephone according to claim 11, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 13 (new) A video telephone according to claim 11, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling
6 party.

1 Claim 14 (new) A video telephone comprising:
2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a
3 pickup signal;
4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and
5 outputs a pickup image signal;
6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal
7 to deforming processing for converting two-dimensional positional information of
8 pixels in the pickup image signal at an arbitrary ratio;
A 9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the
11 image modification processing means; and
12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image
13 signal selection means.

1 Claim 15 (new) A video telephone according to claim 14, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 16 (new) A video telephone according to claim 14, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling
6 party.

1 Claim 17 (new) A video telephone comprising:

2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a
3 pickup signal;

4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and
5 outputs a pickup image signal;

6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal
7 to resolution reducing processing for reducing a resolution of the pickup image
8 signal;

9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the
11 image modification processing means; and

12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image
13 signal selection means.

A J

1 Claim 18 (new) A video telephone according to claim 17, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

1 Claim 19 (new) A video telephone according to claim 17, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling
6 party.

1 Claim 20 (new) A video telephone comprising:

2 image pickup means which captures an image of a subject and generates a
3 pickup signal;

4 pickup signal processing means which processes the pickup signal and
5 outputs a pickup image signal;

6 image modification processing means which subjects the pickup image signal
7 to tone resolution reducing processing for reducing a tone resolution of the pickup
8 image signal;

9 image signal selection means which selects one of the pickup image signal
10 from the pickup signal processing means and a modified image signal from the
11 image modification processing means; and

12 communication means which transmits an output image signal from the image
13 signal selection means.

1 Claim 21 (new) A video telephone according to claim 20, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to an operational instruction from a calling party.

A |
1 Claim 22 (new) A video telephone according to claim 20, wherein the image
2 signal selection means selects and outputs the modified image signal from the image
3 modification processing means at a time of starting communication, and thereafter
4 selects and outputs the pickup image signal from the pickup signal processing
5 means in response to confirmation of authentication of a partner side of a calling
6 party.

1 Claim 23 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said image
2 modification processing is accomplished using a multi-purpose CPU or a digital
3 signal processor.

1 Claim 24 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said
2 processing means is a digital signal processor.

1 Claim 25 (new) A video telephone according to claim 1 wherein said
2 processing means is a multi-purpose CPU.